



Funded by the National Science Foundation

National Center of Excellence

Grape and Wine Education for the 21st Century

VIN 215 – Summer/Fall Viticulture Technology

Date: **May 3 – October 8, 2021¹**

Instructor: Ben Loseke

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Office Hours: Virtual, by appointment, phone, email

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Semester: **Spring/Summer 2021**

Host: Highland Community College

Host Course No.: VIN215/OL0

Course Credit: 2 Hours

Delivery Format: Online

¹**NOTE:** The start and end dates for this course do not follow the standard VESTA semester start/end dates. **The lecture portion of the course begins June 7th and ends August 29th** (see Course Schedule below).

Course Description

Coursework for VIN 215 will focus on fundamental viticulture issues related to the grape maturation process. Students will be introduced to the knowledge and practical skills required to control and monitor grape berry growth and development as it relates to successful commercial production of both table and wine grapes adapted to the continental climate of the Eastern United States.

Students are required to partner with an approved vineyard to participate in the required field practicum portion of the course, which will provide hands-on work experience for those seeking employment in the field of commercial viticulture.

Prerequisite: VIN 111 or permission

Students interested in taking VIN 215 should have a basic understanding of vineyard establishment, vine training, and vine anatomy. Students are required to have successfully completed VIN 111 before registering for VIN 215. Prerequisite coursework may be waived with permission from the instructor for students having significant practical vineyard experience.

Recommended Prerequisites: VIN 212 and VIN 214

Other VESTA courses including VIN 212 and VIN 214 may also be helpful for students wishing to enroll in VIN 215. These courses are highly recommended but not required for acceptance into VIN 215.

Next Course in Sequence: VIN 213 or VIN 211 or VIN 293

Course Objectives

Through field experience, lectures, facilitated discussions, written assignments the student who successfully completes this course will effectively and efficiently:

- Quantify canopy quality parameters
- Quantify vine vigor and vine balance
- Determine potential yield
- Monitor grape berry development
- Perform analysis of soluble solids, titratable acidity, and pH of a field collected grape sample
- Monitor vineyard for fruit damage/rot; identify source and severity of damage
- Manage harvest operations

Required Textbook

Wolf, T. K. (2008). *Wine Grape Production Guide for Eastern North America*. Natural Resource, Agriculture & Engineering Service (NRAES) Cooperative Extension. Check with the vendor of your choice for pricing and availability.

Instructional Format

This is an online course with a synchronous component. An online course site (Learning Management System) is provided by the host institution to provide announcements, lectures, notes, supplemental printed and web-based materials, and assignments to the students. It also serves as a central point for interaction/communication between the instructor and the students.

Live Class Meetings

Beginning in June, the live class meetings will take place every **Monday from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Central Time** via the **Zoom** web conferencing system. Participation to the live class meetings is required and a participation grade is assigned. This is an opportunity for the instructor to go over weekly topic highlights and for students to interact with the instructor and fellow students through questions and discussions. Students are expected to be prepared to ask questions and actively participate in the discussions.

The link to the Zoom virtual classroom will be posted at the top of each weekly module. Students will use the *same* virtual classroom for their live class meetings the entire semester. The sessions will take place on the dates listed in the above schedule.

It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance if he/she must miss a class. The recording of each live class will be available within 24-48 hours after each session for those who miss a live class.

Course Assignments

Course assignments are listed below as well as posted on Canvas, Highland Community College's Learning Management System; and will include weekly readings (web and print-based materials), weekly quizzes and discussion questions, and two exams.

Weekly Reading Assignments will include the most current, relevant, and practical literature appropriate for introductory viticulture students. The books required for VIN 215 should also serve

as valuable references upon completion of the course. They should be completed before the weekly live class meeting.

Weekly Quizzes are designed to reinforce the most important topics discussed in the weekly reading material. Student's answers to these quiz questions will serve as a meter for the instructor to determine the level of student understanding of the literature prior to the weekly class discussions. Students should take the weekly quiz after completing the reading assignments but before the live class meeting.

Weekly Questions – each week students are required to post a question to the discussion board related to that week's topic *before* the live class meeting. Your instructor will address these questions during the live class sessions. After the live class meeting, you post a response to your weekly question no later than Sunday of the current week.

Exams will be short essay questions and will be posted on the online course site.

Field Practicum

There is a *required 32-hour* practicum component to this course. Each student is required to identify a vineyard and mentor that is willing to allow the student to put into practice the theory and skills learned in class.

After identifying their mentor, the student should complete the online **Field Practicum Site Form** (link available on the course site and the VESTA website) no later than the end of the **second** week of the semester. Upon receipt of the form, the VESTA office will send a packet of information to the mentor explaining the field practicum, the skill sets to be completed by the student, and the mentor's role in the field experience. The packet also includes the **Student Assessment Form (SAF)** for the mentor to fill out and send to the VESTA office at the conclusion of the practicum.

The field practicum is a very important part of the course. The *Practicum Skill Set* is a list of tasks to be completed by the student during the field practicum portion of the course. These tasks have been designed to provide students with exposure to skills that will be required for successful employment in the field of commercial grape production.

The course schedule is designed to allow for regional differences. Therefore, students should complete the practicum hours within the specified semester time frame. The practicum is completed when the VESTA office receives the student/trainee evaluation from the mentor.

Field Practicum Journal

In order to monitor the success of the field practicum portion of the course, students will keep an online journal, detailing their experiences. Journal entries will be posted using the **Journal Tool** provided on the course site. Instructions are provided on the course site as well.

Course Schedule and Outline of Topics

Week — Dates	Monday Live Class Meetings	Lecture Topics
05/03 – 06/06	—	(“Start” date allows this to be a Spring course.)
1 06/07- 06/13	06/07	Course Introduction: Expectations and Review of Pruning and Training Week 1 Quiz
2 06/14 - 06/20	06/14	Vine Balance Week 2 Quiz
3 06/21 - 06/27	06/21	Canopy Management Week 3 Quiz
4 06/28 - 07/04	06/28	Grape Berry Growth and Development Week 4 Quiz
5 07/05 - 07/11	—	<i>No live class Monday, July 5 – Independence Day (observed)</i> Crop Yield Estimation and Crop Management Week 5 Quiz
6 07/12 - 07/18	07/12	Review and Exam I Exam I due by 11:59 pm Central Time on July 19
7 07/19 - 07/25	07/19	Collecting a Representative Fruit Sample Week 7 Quiz
8 07/26 - 08/01	07/26	Assessing Canopy Quality and Vine Vigor Week 8 Quiz
9 08/02 - 08/08	08/02	Perform the Lab Analysis for Brix, pH, and T.A. Week 9 Quiz
10 08/09 - 8/15	08/09	Determining Time of Harvest Week 10 Quiz
11 08/16 - 08/22	08/16	Harvesting Week 11 Quiz
12 08/23 – 08/29	08/23	Review, Exam II and Wrap Up Exam II due by 11:59 pm Central Time on August 30
13 to end 08/30 - 10/08	—	Complete All Practicum Requirements No additional live class meetings Course officially ends October 8, 2021

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule as necessary.

Expected Work Load

Students registered for VIN 215 will be expected to visit the VIN 215 online course site to complete the following weekly assignments in a timely manner. Every week read the relevant viticulture text, answer questions regarding the reading assignment, watch recorded lectures, post discussion board questions,

attend live class meeting, answer discussion board questions, complete tasks listed on the Practicum Skill Set, and complete journal entries for each visit/contact with your mentor. An estimation of the time required for individual weekly tasks is as follows:

- 1 – 2 hours reading assigned viticulture text
- ½ – 1 hour completing written assignments and quizzes
- ½ – 1 hour watching recorded lecture
- ½ – 1 hour attending weekly live class session (Zoom session)
- 2 – 4 hours completing Field Practicum Skill Set
- ½ – 1 hour writing practicum journal entries

= 5 – 10 hours per week

Expectations and Instructor Feedback

Students should participate in the weekly virtual class meetings. It is also the students’ responsibility to check the online course site on a regular basis, be aware of the required activities and assignments, and adhere to the deadlines. This will ensure a successful learning experience. The instructor will make every effort to respond to student questions and complete assignment/exam grading on a timely manner.

Grading

Student grades will be determined based on their total points earned in the class. The table below outlines the total points possible and their percentage weight.

Percentage Weight of Student Performance		
Activity	Percentage	Points
Weekly Quizzes	12.5%	125 (12.5 points each)
Live Class Participation	12.5%	125 (at least 10 participations)
Exam I	12.5%	125
Exam II	12.5%	125
Field Practicum and Journal	50%	500
Total	100%	1,000

Grade calculation: total points earned ÷ total points possible; then using the following scale to determine final letter grades:

90 – 100% = A	80 – 89.9% = B	70 – 79.9% = C	60 – 69.9% = D	Below 60% = F
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Student Journals must be submitted on or before Monday, October 4, 2021.

Student Assessment Forms must be received on or before Monday, October 4, 2021.

Final Grades will be submitted the week of October 11, 2021.

Grades of Incomplete are not given in this class. It is the students’ responsibility to see that all graded assignments and exams reach the instructor in a timely fashion, so grades can be issued.

Highland Community College Institutional Policies

Withdrawing from the Course

Should it become necessary to withdraw, it is the student's responsibility to do so according to the guidelines [at this link](#) in the Highland Community College *Student Handbook*.

**Students planning to withdraw from this course must also complete the VESTA Withdrawal/Change of Schedule form and submitting to the VESTA office.*

Attendance Policy

VESTA believes that students must attend class in order to achieve the best learning results. In the case of online courses, attendance is defined as active participation in the form of attending synchronous class meetings, completing reading/writing/testing assignments by assigned deadlines, and maintaining regular communication with course instructor via the online course site and communication tools designated by the instructor. For courses with a field practicum/workshop component, students must participate and complete the number of hours of practical experience required. Instructors may assign attendance grade as part of course grade if they choose to do so.

Make-up Policy

The exams can be made up only in the event of an **excused absence** where the **instructor has prior knowledge** of the absence. Allowance of make-up tests will be at the discretion of the instructor and will be taken on the date of the student's return to class.

Academic Integrity

This class is subject to Highland Community College's academic integrity policy. All submitted work must be your own. Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined by Highland Community College's Academic Integrity Policy in the *Student Handbook* which can be accessed [at this link](#)

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the "Disabilities Self-Identification Form" at this link: <https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services>. This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.